

ISSUED IN TWO PARTS — PART TWO

# THE ANNALS OF IOWA

ESTABLISHED 1863

Third Series

Vol. XXIX, No. 2

PART II — OCTOBER, 1947

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## THIRD INDEX

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VOLUMES XVII—XXVIII

JULY, 1929 — APRIL, 1947

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PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF IOWA

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
AND ARCHIVES

DES MOINES, IOWA



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Issued by

**Iowa State Department of History  
and Archives**

**Des Moines, Iowa**

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# PREFACE

## ORIGIN OF THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

In the first biennial report, 1893, Charles Aldrich, founder and first curator of the State Historical Department of Iowa, detailed its origin and purpose as follows:

NEED FOR DEPARTMENT. At the capitals of most states collections of the data for their own history, and that of surrounding regions, have been in progress for many years—in some from their first organization. . . . Possibly a like effort might have been instituted at the capital of Iowa, but the founding of the State Historical Society at Iowa City, in the year 1857, had the effect to inspire a belief that that organization was taking adequate care of this important interest. Such was an impossibility, however, for the society was destitute of the necessary funds. The members, individually, have done everything in their power to increase the collections, . . . but no such institution, thus meagerly supported, can attain the ends sought.

Meantime, the years were rolling by. The early settlers of the state were rapidly disappearing, either by death or removal to other regions, and all their recollections of pioneer times were fading away. Their places were occupied by new comers, who could not reasonably be expected to take much interest in the Iowa of early days, for the reason that they knew little about it, and little of its history had been preserved.

WASTE OF MATERIALS. No complete collection of our early public documents was in existence, and but few of the pioneer newspapers had been preserved. Precious books, which one of these days will be worth their weight in gold, were so fading from public knowledge as in many cases to have become almost wholly forgotten. Our prehistoric pottery and stone implements were being gathered up and largely sent abroad to enrich the museums and collections of other states. Even the fossils secured by one of our geological surveys, and costly engraved plates for their illustration—paid for by the state—met the same fate. To see and study these fossils at this time necessitates a journey to an eastern city. They would today form a most valuable addition—these “type specimens”—to a collection in

our own capitol; but no effort was ever made to keep them here or at any other place in Iowa. If Iowa owned them now, no proposition to part with them would be entertained by anybody.

While our statesmen boasted the absence of illiteracy in Iowa, and pointed with pride to the magnificent record of Iowa soldiers during the great Civil war, it was continually pleaded that this state, free from debt, could not afford to collect the necessary data for her own history, nor preserve from waste the archaeological treasures yielded by her own soil, or even the mementoes of our early settlers and soldiers.

It is a fact not to be proud of—a strange anomaly—that so many of the public documents published by state authority prior to 1860 are not now in the capitol nor represented in any collection. Of many, not a single copy is known to be in existence, nor were the originals preserved in the offices whence they emanated. It is to stop this waste—to repair, as far as practicable, the losses which have already occurred, to build up collections incidental to such work, to save up precious materials which shall illustrate to future times, the history of our own, that the efforts of the Historical Department of Iowa have been devoted during the first year and a half of its existence.

#### ESTABLISHMENT AT STATE CAPITAL

A veteran of the Civil war, a former Iowa legislator, and a newspaperman of prominence, Charles Aldrich enjoyed a wide acquaintance, and had a thorough knowledge of public affairs, though not touched in any way by professionalism, nor having further political ambitions. Moreover, he had a real appreciation of the value to future generations in Iowa of records, documents and writings of those having to do with the beginnings, the growth and the achievements of the commonwealth. With this equipment and a zeal that knew no limitations, he began in the early eighties, at his own expense and upon his individual responsibility, the collection and indexing of precious historical data and material which he was able to obtain, discerning that it had inestimable value to the state. Cases for the filing and preservation of his collection were provided and he came from his home at



Webster City to Des Moines to do the work without remuneration, but eventually to give to the state this product of his private endeavors. In 1888 the General Assembly appropriated \$1,000.00 to further these activities.

But, it remained for the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa at its meeting in 1890 to make this work and the material already collected the subject of commendatory resolutions, and request the legislature then in session to more definitely sustain the work so modestly begun. As a result and by a unanimous vote of both senate and house, an appropriation of \$3,000.00 was made for this purpose by the General Assembly, with a provision directing the collection of documents, papers, etc., "relating to the earlier days of our territory and state." Thereupon Mr. Aldrich was appointed by the trustees of the state library to handle the work, but was not given an office or adequate facilities for performing his duties, which had become more varied. Both Governor Larrabee in 1890, and Governor Boies in 1892, commended the enterprise, and the Pioneer Lawmakers Association renewed its appeal to the legislature, urging the founding of a permanent Historical department in the state house.

The sentiment quickly crystallized through the support and urging of influential newspapers of the state, and a bill introduced by Senator C. H. Gatch for the establishment of such a state department at the capital was passed, providing for the appointment of a curator for a term of six years. The three lower southeast rooms in the state capitol, originally designed for occupancy by the State Historical society, were set apart for the department. Former Lieut. Gov. Benjamin F. Gue was appointed assistant curator and the new department formally began its notable record of accomplishment from July 1, 1892.

#### THE ANNALS OF IOWA

Under the provision of law for the custody, display and

"publication of such matter as may be of value and interest to the public," THE ANNALS OF IOWA has been issued by the state as a departmental publication. Since first established in 1863 by the Historical Society at Iowa City, it has had three separate sponsors. The society issued it until 1875, when it was suspended for lack of adequate support. Then it was revived in 1882 as a private enterprise by the Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe, a former editor, and again published at Iowa City until 1884, when it suspended a second time. A decade later Curator Aldrich secured the copyright for the Historical Department of Iowa, and its publication was resumed, beginning with the April number, 1893, which marked the beginning of the Third Series, Mr. Aldrich becoming editor. Briefly the sponsorships were:

FIRST SERIES—Established by the State Historical Society of Iowa, "formed in connection with and under the auspices of the State University of Iowa," the new publication being issued under direction of its publication committee in January, 1863, at Iowa City; named and edited by the Rev. Samuel Storrs Howe, then the Librarian of the society. In 1864 Prof. T. S. Parvin was elected secretary of the society and became editor, continuing until 1866, when Dr. Frederic Lloyd succeeded him, but later found the duties of Corresponding Secretary of the society becoming heavy, he retired, and was succeeded both as secretary and editor by Dr. Sanford W. Huff, who served until 1869, when Doctor Lloyd was again elected and served as editor until the regular publication of the magazine was suspended in 1875 for lack of adequate support.

SECOND SERIES—In January, 1882, Mr. Howe, the former editor, resumed publication, announcing: "The undersigned now issues a New Series of THE ANNALS OF IOWA, originally thus named and published by himself, then Librarian of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The society having discontinued its publication, this series is published on his personal responsibility as Editor and Proprietor; and the copyright as to both title and matter is secured by law." A. R. Fulton of Des Moines was associated in the editorial management, and three volumes were published; but on account of very meagre support it again was discontinued.

THIRD SERIES—To aid the activities of the Department in securing valuable manuscripts and documents of historical interest, thus



uncovering the unrecorded chapters of Iowa history and progress which should be permanently in print and indexed for use of writers and research workers, as well as for the information of the public, the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Department authorized the securing of the copyright and entering upon the publication of a new series of *THE ANNALS*. Accordingly the right to use it was secured from the owner at Iowa City and the publication revived.

During the years of its existence *THE ANNALS* has been a repository for original data, and made available to the people generally a vast amount of accurate historical material that otherwise would not have been accessible to students, writers and those engaged in historical research.

### THE THIRD INDEX

*THE FIRST INDEX* to *THE ANNALS* covered Volumes I to VIII, inclusive, of the Third Series, being the period from April, 1893 to and including January 1909, representing the span of Mr. Aldrich's editorship, and was published in 1912. The material had been gathered by Miss Alice M. Steele, under the original direction of Curator Aldrich prior to his death, and Miss Mary R. Whitcomb, his assistant. After the resignation of Miss Steele, the work was completed by Miss Alice Marple.

*THE SECOND INDEX* covered Volumes IX to XVI, inclusive, of the Third Series, being the period from April, 1909, to April, 1929, and was published in 1931. This largely covered the administration of Edgar R. Harlan, as curator. Under his supervision the editorial work was done by Miss Alice Marple, Miss Ida M. Huntington, Mrs. Ellen D. Spaulding and David C. Mott, assistant editor. Mr. Mott's connection with *THE ANNALS* brought to its pages the work of an experienced newspaper man and writer of ability, and also having a fine historical interest, a good memory of persons and events, and a graceful style of writing, all contributing to successful utilization of reliable sources of fact and opinion both from persons and documents.

THE THIRD INDEX is the product of the labors of former Curator Ora Williams, and as presented herein covers Volumes XVII to XXVIII, inclusive, being the period from July, 1929, to April, 1947, the final work upon same being done by him after his retirement from the curatorship and upon occasion of his return to Des Moines from his home in Atlanta, Georgia, where he has resided since his retirement. This and other literary work uncompleted at the time of his leaving Des Moines awaited his return, making it the capsheaf of his worth-while endeavors. It has been his thought to make this a more satisfactory working index by the elimination of mere mention of names in the text where no action or personal event was involved, thereby saving research writers a vast amount of time usually employed in looking up citations and references having no real value other than being included in lists of names, which can be ascertained in connection with the events recited.

While Mr. Williams did much of the laborious detail, he has been ably assisted by Miss Clara Zimmerman, the accessions clerk and cataloguer of the department, Mrs. Nellie Landers and Mrs. Sara G. Goodman.

EMORY H. ENGLISH,

June 20, 1947.

Editor.

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